What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for causing an application selected for launching by a user

2   during an operating session of a computer system to be launched during

3   subsequent operating sessions, wherein the method comprises:

4   a) determining that the application has been launched during a portion of

5   the operating session;

6   b) determining that the application has been launched a number of times

7   exceeding a launch number criterion during portions of previous operating

8   sessions; and

9   c) writing data to a startup sequence causing the application to be

10   launched by the computer system during the subsequent operating sessions.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, additionally comprising, before step c):

2   d) determining that the application has been launched a percentage of

3   times exceeding a launch percentage criterion during the portions of previous

4   operating sessions.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, additionally comprising, after steps b) and d) and

2   before step c):

3   e) displaying a user interface providing for a user selection indicating

4   that the user wants the application to be launched during the subsequent

5   operating sessions, and

6   f) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the

7   application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein

2   the user interface additionally provides for a user selection indicating that

3   the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched

4   during subsequent operating sessions, and

5   the method additionally includes determining that a blacklist flag has not

6   been set regarding the application during a previous operating session in

7   response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the application to be

8   removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating

9   sessions.

1   5.   The method of claim 3, wherein

2   the user interface additionally provides for a user selection indicating that

3   the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched

4   during subsequent operating sessions,

5   the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a

6   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the application

7   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

8   that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be

9   launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

10   the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a

11   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application during a

12   previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the

13   user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched

14   during subsequent operating sessions.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein

2   the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a

3   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the application

4   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

5   that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be

6   launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

7   the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a

8   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application during a

9   previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating that the

10   user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be launched

11   during subsequent operating sessions.

1   7.   The method of claim 3, wherein the user interface additionally provides for

2   a first user selection indicating that the user wants the application to be removed

3   from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions and for

4   a second user selection indicating that the user wants applications removed from

5   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be

6   reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein

7   the method additionally includes:

8   determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the application

9   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

10   that the user wants the application to be removed from consideration to be

11   launched during subsequent operating sessions;

12   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set,

13   holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch

14   percentage criterion at a third level;

15   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding

16   the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage

17   criterion at a fourth level; and

18   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set,

19   determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a

20   selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from

21   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be

22   reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions,

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the user interface additionally provides for

2   user selections setting the first, second, third, and fourth levels.

1   9.   A computer system comprising a display screen; data and instruction

2   storage storing a plurality of applications, a startup configuration database, and a

3   launch history database storing data corresponding to previously launched

4   applications within the plurality of applications; and a microprocessor

5   programmed to perform a method comprising:

6   a)   reading data within the startup configuration database;

7   b)   launching an application within the plurality of applications from data

8   corresponding to the application within the startup configuration database;

9   c)   displaying a first user interface on the display screen providing for

10   user selection of an application within the plurality of applications;

11   d)   launching a user-selected application in response to a selection signal

12   indicating user selection of the application;

13   e)   writing data corresponding to the user-selected application to the

14   launch history database;

15   f)   determining from data stored within the launch history database that

16   the user-selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a

17   launch number criterion; and

18   g)   writing data to the startup configuration database corresponding to

19   the user-selected application.

1   10.   The computer system of claim 9, wherein the method additionally

2   comprises, before step g):

3   h)   determining from data stored within the launch history database that

4   the user-selected application has been launched a percentage of times

5   exceeding a launch percentage criterion.

1   11.   The computer system of claim 10, wherein the method additionally

2   comprises, after steps f) and h) and before step g):

3   i)   displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for

4   a user selection indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be

5   launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

6   f)   receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the user-

7   selected application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions.

1   12.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

4   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

5   the method additionally includes determining that a blacklist flag has not

6   been set regarding the user-selected application during a previous operating

7   session in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the user-

8   selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during

9   subsequent operating sessions.

1   13.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

4   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

5   the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a

6   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the user-selected

7   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

8   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

9   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

10   the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a

11   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the user-selected

12   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

13   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

14   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

15   the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a

16   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the user-selected

17   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

18   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

19   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

20   the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a

21   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the user-selected

22   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

23   indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be removed from

24   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions.

1   14.   The computer system of claim 11, wherein the second user interface

2   additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user wants the

3   user-selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched

4   during subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating

5   that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched

6   during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching

7   during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the method additionally

8   includes:

9   determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the user-

10   selected application during a previous operating session in response to a

11   selection signal indicating that the user wants the user-selected application to be

12   removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent operating

13   sessions;

14   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set,

15   holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch

16   percentage criterion at a third level;

17   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding

18   the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage

19   criterion at a fourth level; and

20   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set,

21   determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a

22   selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from
23   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be
24   reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions,

1   15.   The computer system of claim 14, wherein the second user interface
2   additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third, and fourth
3   levels.

1   16.   The computer system of claim 9, wherein
2   the startup configuration database includes a number of user configuration
3   data structures for a number of users of the computer system,
4   the launch history database includes a number of user launch history data
5   structures for a number of users of the computer system,
6   step a) is preceded by a user logging onto the computer system,
7   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the startup
8   configuration database is written to and read from the user configuration data
9   structure of the user logging onto the computer system, and
10   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch
11   history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure
12   of the user logging onto the computer system.

1   17.   The computer system of claim 9, wherein data is written to the launch
2   history database and to the startup configuration database corresponding to the
3   user-selected application only during a predetermined period following launching
4   applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the
5   applications within the startup configuration database.

1 18.   A computer program product for use with a computer system having a
2 microprocessor executing program steps from an operating system having a
3 capability to launch applications from data corresponding to the applications
4 stored within a startup configuration database, wherein the computer program
5 product includes a computer usable medium having computer readable program
6 code embodied thereon causing the microprocessor to additionally perform a
7 method comprising:
8   a) determining through an operating system interface with the operating
9 system that a selected application has been launched;
10   b) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch
11 history data file,
12   c) determining from data stored within the launch history database that
13 the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a
14 launch number criterion; and
15   d) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup
16 configuration database.

1 19.   The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the method
2 additionally comprises, before step d):
3   e) determining from data stored within the launch history database that
4 the selected application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a
5 launch percentage criterion.

1 20.   The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the method
2 additionally comprises, after steps c) and e) and before step d):
3   f) displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for
4 a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be
5 launched during subsequent operating sessions, and
6   f) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected
7 application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions.

1   21.   The computer program product of claim 20, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

4   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

5   the method additionally includes determining that a blacklist flag has not

6   been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session

7   in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected

8   application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent

9   operating sessions.

1   22.   The computer program product of claim 20, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

4   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

5   the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a

6   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected

7.   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

8   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

9   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

10   the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a

11   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application

12   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

13   that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to

14   be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

15   the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a

16   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected

17   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

18   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

19   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

20   the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a

21   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application

22   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

23   that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to

24   be launched during subsequent operating sessions.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the second user

2   interface additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user

3   wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched

4   during subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating

5   that the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched

6   during subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching

7   during subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the method additionally

8   includes:

9   determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected

10   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

11   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

12   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;

13   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set,

14   holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch

15   percentage criterion at a third level;

16   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding

17   the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage

18   criterion at a fourth level; and

19   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set,

20   determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a

21   selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from

22   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be

23   reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions,

1 24.   The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the second user
2 interface additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third,
3 and fourth levels.

1 25.   The computer program product of claim 18, wherein
2   the launch history database includes a number of user launch history data
3 structures for a number of users of the computer system,
4   ....   step a) is preceded by a user logging onto the computer system,
5   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the startup
6 configuration database is written to and read from a user configuration data
7 structure of the user logging onto the computer system within the startup
8 configuration database, and
9   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch
10 history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure
11 of the user logging onto the computer system.

1 26.   The computer program product of claim 18, wherein data is written to the
2 launch history database and to the startup configuration database corresponding
3 to the selected application only during a predetermined period following
4 launching applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding
5 to the applications within the startup configuration database.

1 27.   A computer data signal embodied on a carrier wave for use within a
2 computer system having a microprocessor executing program steps from an
3 operating system having a capability to launch applications from data
4 corresponding to the applications stored within a startup configuration database,
5 wherein the computer data signal includes program code causing the
6 microprocessor to additionally perform a method comprising:
7   a)   determining through an operating system interface with the operating
8 system that a selected application has been launched;

9   b) writing data corresponding to the selected application to a launch

10 history data file,

11   c) determining from data stored within the launch history database that

12 the selected application has been launched a number of times exceeding a

13 launch number criterion; and

14   d) writing data corresponding to the selected application to the startup

15 configuration database.

1 28. The computer data signal of claim 27, wherein the method additionally

2 comprises, before step d):

3   e) determining from data stored within the launch history database that

4 the selected application has been launched a percentage of times exceeding a

5 launch percentage criterion.

1 29. The computer data signal of claim 28, wherein the method additionally

2 comprises, after steps c) and e) and before step d):

3   f) displaying a second user interface on the display screen providing for

4 a user selection indicating that the user wants the selected application to be

5 launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

6   f) receiving a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected

7 application to be launched during the subsequent operating sessions.

1 30. The computer data signal of claim 29, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3 indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

4 consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

5   the method additionally includes determining that a blacklist flag has not

6 been set regarding the selected application during a previous operating session

7 in response to a selection signal indicating that the user wants the selected

8 application to be removed from consideration to be launched during subsequent

9   operating sessions.

1   31.   The computer data signal of claim 29, wherein

2   the second user interface additionally provides for a user selection

3   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

4   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

5   the launch number criterion is held at a first level in response to a

6   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected

7   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

8   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

9   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

10   the launch number criterion is held at a second level in response to a

11   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application

12   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

13   that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to

14   be launched during subsequent operating sessions,

15   the launch percentage criterion is held at a third level in response to a

16   determination that a blacklist flag has not been set regarding the selected

17   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal

18   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from

19   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions, and

20   the launch percentage criterion is held at a fourth level in response to a

21   determination that a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected application

22   during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal indicating

23   that the user wants the selected application to be removed from consideration to

24   be launched during subsequent operating sessions.

25

26   32.   The computer data signal of claim 29, wherein the second user interface

27   additionally provides for a first user selection indicating that the user wants the

28   selected application to be removed from consideration to be launched during

29   subsequent operating sessions and for a second user selection indicating that
30   the user wants applications removed from consideration to be launched during
31   subsequent operating sessions not to be reconsidered for launching during
32   subsequent operating sessions, and wherein the method additionally includes:
33   determining whether a blacklist flag has been set regarding the selected
34   application during a previous operating session in response to a selection signal
35   indicating that the user wants the selected application to be removed from
36   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions;
37   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has not been set,
38   holding the launch number criterion at a first level and holding the launch
39   percentage criterion at a third level;
40   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set, holding
41   the launch number criterion at a second level and holding the launch percentage
42   criterion at a fourth level; and
43   in response to a determination that the blacklist flag has been set,
44   determining that a reconsideration flag has not been set in response to a
45   selection signal indicating that the user wants applications removed from
46   consideration to be launched during subsequent operating sessions not to be
47   reconsidered for launching during subsequent operating sessions,

1   33.   The computer data signal of claim 32, wherein the second user interface
2   additionally provides for user selections setting the first, second, third, and fourth
3   levels.

1   34.   The computer data signal of claim 27, wherein
2   the launch history database includes a number of user launch history data
3   structures for a number of users of the computer system,
4   step a) is preceded by a user logging onto the computer system,
5   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the startup
6   configuration database is written to and read from a user configuration data

7   structure of the user logging onto the computer system within the startup

8   configuration database, and

9   as the method is performed, data written to and read from the launch

10   history database is written to and read from the user launch history data structure

11   of the user logging onto the computer system.

1   35.   The computer data signal of claim 28, wherein data is written to the launch

2   history database and to the startup configuration database corresponding to the

3   selected application only during a predetermined period following launching

4   applications within the plurality of applications from data corresponding to the

5   applications within the startup configuration database.